

SENATE BILL REPORT

HB 1371

As Reported By Senate Committee On:
Transportation, March 20, 2007

Title: An act relating to traffic infractions involving rental vehicles.

Brief Description: Addressing traffic infractions involving rental vehicles.

Sponsors: Representative Appleton.

Brief History: Passed House: 3/09/07, 97-0.

Committee Activity: Transportation: 3/19/07, 3/20/07 [DPA].

SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Majority Report: Do pass as amended.

Signed by Senators Haugen, Chair; Marr, Vice Chair; Murray, Vice Chair; Swecker, Ranking Minority Member; Berkey, Clements, Delvin, Eide, Holmquist, Kastama, Kauffman, Kilmer and Spanel.

Staff: Kelly Simpson (786-7403)

Background: In the event a traffic infraction is based on a vehicle's identification, and the vehicle's registered owner is a rental car business, the business has 30 days before receiving a notice of infraction to submit to the issuing law enforcement agency either: (1) a sworn statement stating the name and address of the driver or renter of the vehicle when the infraction occurred; or (2) a sworn statement that the business is unable to determine who was driving or renting the vehicle when the infraction occurred. Timely mailing of the statement relieves the business of any liability for the infraction. Alternatively, the rental car business may pay the applicable penalty in lieu of identifying the vehicle operator.

The process for relieving a rental car business of liability for certain traffic violations that occur while the vehicle is being rented does not apply to private parking facilities issuing parking infractions.

Summary of Bill: The bill as referred to committee not considered.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDED AMENDMENT(S) AS PASSED COMMITTEE (Transportation): A process is established for relieving a rental car business of liability for certain parking infractions at private parking facilities that occur while the vehicle was being rented. The process is identical to the one available for infractions issued by law enforcement agencies.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Language is clarified requiring that when a rental car business claims that the business is unable to determine who was driving or renting the vehicle when the infraction occurred, the business must submit a filed police report indicating the vehicle was stolen.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Committee/Commission/Task Force Created: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony: PRO: This bill is the same as the Senate bill passed out of this committee earlier this session. Parking infractions should be issued against those driving the vehicles, and not the rental car business.

Persons Testifying: PRO: Gordon Walgren, Car & Truck Renting Association.